

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8446

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, LI

SUBJECT: LONDON TIMES REPORT OF MEETING BETWEEN PRESI-
DENT OF LIBERIA AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINI-
STER

REF: LONDON 2440

1. ACCORDING TO HEAD OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEPARTMENT AT
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FCO, READ, ON FEBRUARY 18, BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET

RECEIVED REPORT OF SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO LIBERIA ON FEBRUARY 11 AND 12. READ ALSO COMMENTED THAT FOREIGN OFFICE CONVINCED DOCUMENT PREPARED BY LIBERIA BECAUSE OF DEFERENCE THROUGHOUT TOWARD PRESIDENT TOLBERT, BECAUSE OF MISSPELLING OF NAME OF CLEM KAPUUO (WHICH TIMES SPELT KAPOUR) AND OTHER EXPRESSIONS WHICH OBVIOUSLY NOT SOUTH AFRICAN.

2. OTHER SOURCES FROM COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT AND LIBERATION GROUP REPRESENTATIVE IN LONDON COMMENTED THAT IN TIMES REPORT OF VORSTER-TOLBERT MEETING, TOLBERT SHOWED UP VERY BADLY. COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT SOURCE WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT REPORT COULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY SOUTH AFRICAN INFORMATION SERVICE. THESE COMMENTS BASED ON FACT THAT TOLBERT AND FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS POSED RELEVANT QUESTIONS, BUT OBVIOUSLY HAD NOT DONE THEIR HOMEWORK AND MADE NO FOLLOW-UP TO LENGTHY STATEMENTS MADE BY VORSTER WHICH WERE IN MANY CASES EVASIVE AND/OR INACCURATE.

3. LOCAL SWAPO REPRESENTATIVE PARTICULARLY INDIGNANT BY REPORTED STATEMENTS BY VORSTER THAT THERE WERE ONLY 2,000 SWAPO MEMBERS AND THAT THERE WAS NO FIGHTING IN SOUTHWEST AFRICA WITH "SWAPO OR ANY OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS," AS WELL AS BY AFFIRMATION BY VORSTER THAT THERE WERE NO POLITICAL DETAINEES EVEN IN SOUTH AFRICA. ON FEBRUARY 18, SWAPO OFFICE HERE ISSUED STATEMENT CHARACTERIZING VORSTER'S COMMENTS AS REPORTED IN TIMES AS "OUTRAGEOUS FOR THE LIES AND DISTORTIONS. THE LAST THING HE WANTS IS FOR THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE TO DECIDE THEIR FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES."

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